



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Gerardo Alcaraz-Arellano**, 25, a citizen of Jalisco, Mexico, was sentenced on June 17, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow to **five years and ten months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Alcaraz-Arellano entered a guilty plea on March 2, 2004, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately one kilogram (approximately 2.2 pounds) of heroin.

Melgren said that Alcaraz-Arellano admitted at his plea that on February 9, 2003, he was stopped by the Russell County Sheriff's Department for a traffic violation and consented to the search of the automobile he was driving. Alcaraz-Arellano further admitted that the officer found a hidden compartment in the car containing approximately one kilogram (approximately 2.2 pounds) of heroin and approximately three kilograms (approximately 6.6 pounds) of cocaine. Alcaraz-Arellano loaded the drugs into the automobile on the west coast and was driving the drugs to the east coast for distribution.

Co-defendant Juan Antonio Buenrostro, 30, Los Angeles, California, was sentenced on March 17, 2004, to thirty-four months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release for possession with the intent to distribute heroin.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Russell County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Hendershot in this prosecution.